



## Graduate Student Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

February 13, 2009, 3p.m.

Connable Board of Trustee Room (Bernhard Center – 201)

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*Representatives Present:* Brandi Pritchett (Chairperson), Alyssa Kalata (Vice-Chairperson), Kazuhiro Iwamoto (Biological Sciences), Nayane Udawatte (Chemistry), Krystal Breshnahan (Communication), Greg Laing (English), Mohammad Al-Alar (Physics), Joe Johnson (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Katie Smith (Educational Leadership, Research, & Technology), Katya Gallegos (Teaching, Learning, & Educational Studies), Lotfi Benothmane (Computer Science), Stephany Coffman-Wolph (Computer Science), Imad Zyout (Electrical & Computer Engineering), Daniel Seidling (Social Work), Andrew Crowe (Western Student Association)

*Guests Present:* Ann Armbruster (Music Therapy), Zach Sullivan (TAU & HPER), Lauren Frye (Psychology), Joel Ravelsharimisy (Political Science), Alicia Austin (Counselor Education & Counseling Psychology), Tieng Lau (Communication)

1. Call to order: 3:03
2. Introductions
3. \*Approval of the Agenda 2/13/09: Joe moves to approve, seconded by Greg.
4. \*Approval of Minutes from 1/09/09: Joe moves to approve, seconded by Nayane.
5. Report from the Dr. Lewis Pyenson, Dean of the Graduate College: Not present.
6. Report from the Chair
  - a. Board of Trustees Meeting: Brandi reported that at the last Board of Trustees Meeting, she shared information regarding the search for the new Vice-Chairperson of GSAC. She stated that she received 31 applications, granted 7 interviews, and will be presenting 4 of these individuals to the GSAC body at today's GSAC meeting. Brandi reported that she also informed the Board of Trustees about upcoming events for the month of February. Brandi stated that previously she had requested that GSAC representatives provide her with departmental reports and attempt to attend Board of Trustees Meetings, as President Dunn stated that these would be two ways in which graduate students could achieve more visibility and attention from the University. Brandi reported that at the last Board of Trustees Meeting, Joe presented on a video documentary project that involved collaboration between the Walker Institute, the School of Communication, and individuals in the Kalamazoo community. This documentary received an award and a public viewing of the documentary will occur on February 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. WSA Elections: Brandi reported that WSA will be holding their elections online from March 16<sup>th</sup> through March 20<sup>th</sup> at [wsa.wmich.edu](http://wsa.wmich.edu). Brandi read a brief statement from Stacey Nordstrand and her running mate Courtney Dunsmore that outlined their goals for WSA, should they be elected, which include increasing a sense of community on and off campus, addressing academic concerns, increasing sustainability initiatives, and connected with the Department of Public Safety.
  - c. GSAC Vice Chairperson Search – 4 Candidates: Brandi explained that the initial interview process for the new GSAC Vice-Chairperson involved seven half-hour interviews conducted by herself, Alyssa, Alissa, and Dr. Pyenson. She stated that after the interviews, no one candidate stood out as definitively the next Vice-Chairperson, so she brought the four remaining candidates to the GSAC meeting today to explain who they are and what their goals are for GSAC, as well as to give GSAC members an opportunity to ask them questions. After this explanation, the four candidates made brief presentations about themselves and their goals for the GSAC and a vote was conducted.
7. \*GFAC – *Alyssa Kalata*
  - a. Muslim Students Association: Requested \$2,190.00 for their Clarity in Time of Confusion: The Truth About Islam event. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that \$2,000.00 in event expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
  - b. Arab Students Association: Requested \$1,500.00 for their Clarity in Time of Confusion: The Truth About Islam event. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that \$1,500.00 in event expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.

- c. Clinical Psychology Graduate Student Organization: Requested \$2,470.00 for a workshop in clinical behavior analysis and a clinical gerontology colloquium. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that \$2,470.00 in event expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
  - d. Graduate Students of Color: Requested \$300.00 for their Speaker Series Part Two event. Alyssa stated that GFAC recommends that \$300.00 in event expenses be approved. Motion to approve passed.
8. GSAC Treasurer – Alyssa Kalata: Report tabled until next month.
9. GSAC Sub-Committees and University Councils
- i. Web Committee – *Alyssa Kalata*: Report tabled until next month.
  - ii. Public Relations Committee (3) – Kazuhiro Iwamoto, Svetlana Stone, Krystal Bresnahan: Report tabled until next month.
  - b. Graduate Research and Publication Committee (4) – *Vacant*
  - c. Graduate Student Research and Travel Awards Selection Committee – *Kamleshkumar Suthar*: Not present.
  - d. University Councils & Committees
    - i. Research Policies Council (2) - *Greg Laing*, ***Needs 1 member!***: Report tabled until next month.
    - ii. Graduate Studies Council (2) – *Brandi Pritchett*, *Alyssa Kalata*: Report tabled until next month.
    - iii. Campus Planning and Finance Council (1) – ***Needs 1 member!***
    - iv. International Education Council (1) – *Kazuhiro Iwamoto*: Report tabled until next month.
    - v. President’s University Sustainability Committee (1) – *David Shoup*, *Daniel Seidling*
    - vi. University Accreditation Committee (8) – *Brandi Pritchett* (steering), Svetlanta Stone (Student Learning), Phyllis Haugabook (Mission & Integrity), Greg Laing (Preparing for the Future), Stephany Coffman-Wolph (Acquisition, Discovery, Application), John Kusku (Acquisition, Discovery, Application) ***NEEDS 1 MORE MEMBER!***: Report tabled until next month.
  - e. MLK Committee –
  - f. WSA representative/Senator – *Andrew Crowe*, *Vice-President/John Kusku*, *GSAC Senator*: Report tabled until next month.
  - g. CAB representative – *David VanDeusen*, *President*: Not present.
  - h. Teaching Assistants Union (TAU) – *Jamie McCandless*: Not present.
10. Unfinished Business
- a. WMU Day at the Capitol – Presentation from Greg Rosine, Vice President for Legislative Affairs: Greg reported that last year’s WMU Day at the Capitol attracted approximately 800 people, making it the single largest event on the capitol lawn. He stated that WMU made a big impact that day and that he would like to make a similar impact this year. This year’s WMU Day at the Capitol event will occur on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, which is typically a very busy time for the legislature. He would like to encourage students to come up with creative and interactive ways to display their work and academic interests. Students who attend this event can take buses that leave from campus to Lansing and back and will be provided with a free lunch. Registration for this event can be completed online.
  - b. GSAC Trinkets: Tabled until next month.
  - c. WELCOME BACK – Hilltop Review: Brandi reported that GSAC has a new editor for the Hilltop Review, Lotfi Benothmane, and that GSAC anticipates having an electronic edition of the Hilltop Review published soon. Lotfi will need at least one other individual to assist him with the Hilltop Review, so please contact Brandi if you would like to help out.
  - d. Upcoming Events (pg. 4-5): Brandi asked the GSAC membership to pay special attention to the Graduate College website, as a number of important deadlines, including those involving funding, are rapidly approaching. Brandi highlighted a number of the upcoming events, including Volunteer Day, the College Women in Leadership Regional Conference, the Multicultural Leadership Luncheon, the Special Education Mini Conference, the 2009 NAGPS Midwest Regional Conference, and the NAGPS Legislative Action Days. Please contact Brandi if you are interested in attending either of the NAGPS events.
11. New Business
- a. Departmental Outreach Email Template (pg. 6): Brandi reminded GSAC members to please bring departmental reports to GSAC meetings!

- b. Departmental Reports ☺: Tabled until next month.
- 12. Student Concerns (open floor)
- 13. General Announcements & Briefs
  - a. Announcements for the Good of the Order: Krystal mentioned that WMU is partnering with Communities in Schools to do a “Bagels for Books” event on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. This event will involve reading to fourth and fifth grade students at Arcadia Elementary. Krystal will send information to Brandi regarding this event, but Krystal can also be contacted for further details.
  - b. Next GFAC and GSAC meetings: March 13th, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (DATE CHANGE-same location), May 8th
- 11. General Discussion “The State of Graduate Schools”
- 12. Adjourn
- \* Items that require a vote of members

## **FYI: EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

- Check out THE GRADUATE COLLEGE web site for upcoming events and funding opportunities - <http://www.wmich.edu/grad/>
- Volunteer Day: "Spring Into the Streets" – March 27<sup>th</sup> Participating community orgs. Include; YMCA, Ministry w/ Community, Fair Food Matters, Several neighborhood districts. Email Andrew Van Wasshova at [salp-intothestreets@wmich.edu](mailto:salp-intothestreets@wmich.edu) to participate.
- 2009 World Congress on Computer Science and Information Engineering (CSIE 2009) **March 31 - April 2, 2009 Los Angeles/Anaheim, USA**  
<http://world-research-institutes.org/conferences/CSIE/2009>
- American Society for Engineering Education - ASEE Spring 2009 Northeast Conference April 3-4, 2009 @ University of Bridgeport <http://www.asee2009online.org>
- College Women in Leadership Regional Conference – March 20<sup>th</sup> (first meeting on MONDAY FEB. 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm in Faunce) please RSVP to Jenny Steiner at [wsa-publicrelations@groupwise.wmich.edu](mailto:wsa-publicrelations@groupwise.wmich.edu)
- American Educational Research Association is looking for a liaison. Contact Marcus Lee Johnson at [johns769@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:johns769@unlv.nevada.edu) if you are interested. For additional info. about the association visit [www.aera.net](http://www.aera.net).
- Neighborhood Watch Committee – Arcadia or Knollwood Neighborhoods
- Multicultural Leadership Luncheon (free) – Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> from Noon until 1:30 pm in the Presidents Dining Room of Bernhard Center. Mayor Bobby Hopewell will speak to students about advancing their leadership, his leadership journey and role in the community, and developing a love for service. \* Seating Limited\* RSVP to [melissa.green@wmich.edu](mailto:melissa.green@wmich.edu)
- Special Education Mini Conference – March 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm. For additional info. see Brandi!
- 2009 Assessment Institute – Oct. 25-27<sup>th</sup>. Proposals due March 20<sup>th</sup>. Additional info. can be found at [www.planning.iupui.edu](http://www.planning.iupui.edu) or contact Trudy at (317) 274.4111 or [tbanta@iupui.edu](mailto:tbanta@iupui.edu)

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## **GSAC Opportunities**

The 2009 Midwest Regional Conference will be hosted by the University of Notre Dame, March 19-21, 2009 \*\* Who wants to go and represent GSAC? **Room for 2 more GSAC members! CALL FOR PAPERS DEADLINE: Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> visit [www.gsu.nd.edu](http://www.gsu.nd.edu)**

*Security Camera Committee – Beginning Jan. 2009*

*ICES OnLine Committee – Next meeting will be held on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in Henry Hall. If you are interested please contact Brandi!*

GSAC/WSA Forum w/ Dr. Dunn – Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> in room 157 of the Bernhard Center from 6:30 – 8pm

GSAC/WSA Speaker Collaboration – Feb.26<sup>th</sup> in the North Ballroom of the Bernhard Center  
Firoozeh Dumas

GSAC Forum – March 11<sup>th</sup> in room 208 of the Bernhard Center from 6-7:30 pm.

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Graduate Student Summit – March 14<sup>th</sup> \*\*\*Who wants to go?\*\*\*

Bowling/Karaoke Night – March 28<sup>th</sup> at Airway Lanes (Portage Rd.) from 8-11pm

WSA Senator – Attend one WSA meeting per month and voice your graduate student opinion. Meetings are held every week beginning at 4:15pm in room 157 of the Bernhard Center.

Committee to Develop Leadership in Diversity, Social Justice and Inclusion (LDSI). If you are interested please contact Dr. Yvette Hyter at [yvette.hyter@wmich.edu](mailto:yvette.hyter@wmich.edu)

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## DEPARTMENTAL RECRUITMENT & INFORMATION EMAIL

Hi Everyone,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am (*name*) and I currently serve as your departmental representative for the Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC). The GSAC is a standing committee of the Faculty Senate's Graduate Studies Council. It serves as a liaison between the administration, faculty, staff of WMU and graduate students. **GSAC helps to advocate for graduate students with regard to University issues such as the recent increase in graduate student print pages from 500 to 750 per semester in all campus OIT labs.** *This victory came as a result of your feedback and GSAC advocacy efforts.* GSAC also advocates for graduate student needs on a state and national level, helps connect graduate students to resources within the University, and to each other. We provide opportunities and events that are relevant to the graduate student community and give funding to registered student organizations (RSOs). RSOs can request funds for up to \$500/year for operational expenses and up to \$2500/year for event expenses.

GSAC consists of Brandi Pritchett (chairperson) and Alyssa Kalata (vice-chairperson). We also have graduate student reps from each department.

GSAC allows up to five reps for each department, so if you are interested in joining, feel free to come to the next meeting which is this Friday, the 9th at 3pm in the Board of Trust Connable Room (201) in the Bernhard Center.

GSAC has a website that contains all sorts of information: <http://www.wmich.edu/gsac>. You can also contact Brandi or Alyssa at 387-8207 if you simply want to share concerns, suggestions, or departmental and graduate student achievements. They also hold office hours every Monday from 10 am – Noon at the Graduate College located in Walwood Hall on east campus. Of course, feel free to contact me by email with any questions. Keep on the look out for emails, flyers or other information that will be posted relating to events or info. that will be of interest to you. Also, I strongly encourage you to check out the Graduate College website at [www.wmich.edu/grad](http://www.wmich.edu/grad).

Thank you and I look forward to meeting you!